

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's fine, Madam President. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator McKenzie would move to amend, Madam President. (See AM1651 on page 1656 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. The amendment should be before you on your desk. It is AM1651. Essentially, what it does is strike Section 3 of the bill, which was a bill I had introduced dealing with a study for biomass, biopower. There are certainly a number of concerns about the language in that section. It is our intent to strike it from LB 120, to reinstate it in the original bill form, and to spend the rest of the interim time working on the conflicting, I guess, points of view that are included in this section. And just very briefly, that the two areas of concern that power...the power industry has deals with the makeup of the committee and the language which directs that they shall seek grant funds, although we have given them a permissive authority to actually study the feasibility. With that, I would ask your support in striking Section 3 of the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Any discussion of the McKenzie amendment? Senator Beutler. Senator Wesely, do you wish to discuss the amendment? Senator Hall, do you wish to discuss the McKenzie amendment? Senator Elmer, do you wish to discuss the McKenzie amendment?

SENATOR ELMER: Yes, Madam President, just very briefly, I don't want to try to talk the bill out, but I would suggest that when you look at the committee amendments, in Section 1, when it refers to supporting development of least cost energy sources, including several, and it says renewable energy sources, that that, in essence, does what Section 3 was purporting to do in studying and supporting biomass. So, really the intent of Section 3 to support biomass and its studies remains in the bill when it asks public power districts to use renewable power sources where feasible, and would support Senator McKenzie's amendment to the committee amendments. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Any further